

TRANSMITTAL LETTER			Case No. 10922/51
Serial No. 10/617,580	Filing Date July 11, 2003	Examiner N/A	Group Art Unit 3763
Inventor(s) Thomas L. Foster et al.			
Title of Invention Flexible Cannula			

TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

Transmitted herewith is Information Disclosure Statement; Form PTO-1449; eight cited references; and return post card.

Petition for a _____ month extension of time.

No additional fee is required.

The fee has been calculated as shown below:

					Small Entity		Other Than Small Entity	
	Claims Remaining After Amendment		Highest No. Previously Paid For	Present Extra	Rate	Add'l Fee	Rate	Add'l Fee
Total	29	Minus	29		x \$9 =		x \$18 =	
Indep.	3	Minus	3		x 43 =		x \$86 =	
First Presentation of Multiple Dep. Claim					+ \$145 =		+ \$290 =	
					Total add'l fee	\$	Total add'l fee	\$

Please charge Deposit Account No. 23-1925 (BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE) in the amount of \$_____. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

A check in the amount of \$_____ to cover the filing fee is enclosed.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional filing fees required under 37 CFR § 1.16 and any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR § 1.17 associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1925. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

I hereby petition under 37 CFR § 1.136(a) for any extension of time required to ensure that this paper is timely filed. Please charge any associated fees which have not otherwise been paid to Deposit Account No. 23-1925. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

David W. Okey
Registration No. 42,859
Attorney for Applicant
Customer No. 00757 - Brinks Hofer Gilson Lione

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to:
Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on November 26 2003.

Date: NOV 24, 2003

Signature: David W. Okey



I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope, with sufficient postage, addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on

November 26, 2003

Date of Deposit

David W. Okey, Reg. No. 42,959

Name of Applicant, Assignee or
Registered Representative

Signature

Nov 26, 2003

Date of Signature

Our Case No.: 10922/51

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Thomas L. Foster et al.

Examiner: N/A

Serial No.: 10/617,580

Group Art Unit No.: 3763

Filing Date: July 11, 2003

For: Flexible Cannula

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, it is respectfully requested that this Information Disclosure Statement be entered and the documents listed below and on the attached Form PTO-1449 be considered by the Examiner and made of record. Copies of the listed documents required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2) are enclosed for the convenience of the Examiner.

The references now cited are the following:

U.S. Patent Documents

Document No.	Date	Inventor
5,573,520	11/12/1996	Schwartz et al.
6,048,338	04/11/2000	Larson et al.
6,325,807 B1	12/04/2001	Que
2001/0031980 A1	10/18/2001	Wensel et al.
2001/0041899 A1	11/15/2001	Foster
2001/0051812 A1	12/13/2001	Ouchi

Foreign Patent Documents

Document No.	Date	Country
WO 98/29043	07/09/1998	PCT

Other Art

International Search Report, dated October 28, 2003, for corresponding international application PCT/US03/21672.

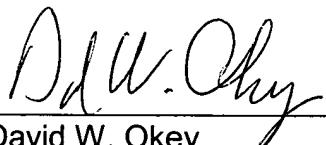
In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(g),(h), this Information Disclosure Statement is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made and is not to be construed to be an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(b).

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed prior to the receipt of the first Official Action reflecting an examination on the merits and hence is believed to be timely filed in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b).

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1), Applicant(s) hereby certify that each item of the information disclosed in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to filing of the present statement, as evidenced by the date of the enclosed search report.

Applicant(s) respectfully request that the listed documents be made of record in
the present case.

Respectfully submitted,



David W. Okey
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Attorney for Applicant(s) NOV 24, 2003

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FORM PTO-1449	SERIAL NO. 10/617,580	CASE NO. 10922/51
LIST OF PATENTS AND PUBLICATIONS FOR APPLICANT'S INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT	FILING DATE July 11, 2003	GROUP ART UNIT 3763
(use several sheets if necessary)	APPLICANT(S): Thomas L. Foster et al.	

REFERENCE DESIGNATION **U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER Number-Kind Code (if known)	DATE	NAME	CLASS/ SUBCLASS	FILING DATE
A1	5,573,520	11/12/1996	Schwartz et al.		
A2	6,048,338	04/11/2000	Larson et al.		
A3	6,325,807 B1	12/04/2001	Que		
A4	2001/0031980 A1	10/18/2001	Wensel et al.		
A5	2001/0041899 A1	11/15/2001	Foster		
A6	2001/0051812 A1	12/13/2001	Ouchi		

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER Number-Kind Code (if known)	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS/ SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES OR NO
A7	WO 98/29043	07/09/1998	PCT		

EXAMINER INITIAL	OTHER ART – NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS (Include name of author, title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.)
A8	International Search Report, dated October 28, 2003, for corresponding international application PCT/US03/21672.

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.